

Monday, 16 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION- BALLOT

I originally wrote to you on the 22 October 2020 to invite nominations for a parent governor vacancy. This letter referred to the skills and experience the governing board ideally requires at this time as being marketing; estates management; tertiary education.

I am writing now to update you regarding the next stage of this process and am delighted to say that there has been a good response with 14 candidates for the one vacancy, which means we must now hold a ballot. Attached to this letter is a copy of the election addresses from the 14 nominated candidates.

We intend to hold a paper-free election for both health and safety and environmental reasons. Additionally, governors wish to ensure that a robust election process is in place.

The most efficient solution, given the resources we have available to us is to use a Google form, which has a unique identifier linked to your email account. This is to ensure that multiple voting does not take place. I am confirming that a strict separation of identifiers and voting will be observed, with the school able to check for authenticity only, and an anonymised result extracted for the outcome. Please do contact me if you have any questions about this process.

If you require a paper ballot please request one by contacting: rowan.haslam@hollandparkschool.co.uk

Voting closes Thursday 26th November 2020 at 15.00

Each parent may vote for only one candidate regardless of the number of students you have attending the school. The outcome will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast.

In the event of a tie, lots will be drawn.

When the election has been completed, I will let you know the outcome. If in the meantime you have any queries, please contact me, Clerk to the Governors at clerktothegoverningboard@outlook.com

Thank you for your interest in supporting Governance arrangements at Holland Park School.

Yours faithfully,

Lyn Stanton, Clerk to the Governors
clerktothegoverningboard@outlook.com

Returning Officer

Enc. Candidate addresses to parents

HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL

London W8 7AF

Parent Governor election process Candidate addresses- in alphabetical order

Mr John Bercow

I have three children - (Y12), (Y10) and (Y8). I passionately believe in our outstanding comprehensive school and want to support it and our children in tackling the unprecedented challenges ahead.

I was a Member of Parliament for 22 years and Speaker of the House of Commons for over 10. In the process, I developed strong communication skills, a deep understanding of how decisions are made and an intense commitment to education which empowers all children equally, irrespective of gender, race, faith, orientation or disability. I have always spoken truth to power and will do so for the school too.

Earlier this year, when OFQUAL guidance would have prevented Years 9 and 10 from getting their GCSEs, I worked with the school to persuade the Government to amend their plans. As a result, all exam-entered students were awarded the qualifications for which they had worked so hard. For my part, I offer a sound knowledge of the education system as a whole (I am Chancellor of Essex University and have also been a primary school governor), but I am always ready to learn from others with greater knowledge than I. Please vote for me to represent you and serve our school community.

Mr Philippe Carpentier

I am particularly keen to become a Parent Governor at Holland Park School because of my personal interest in education, experience as a Governor, and belief in Holland Park's ethos. For the past 20+ years I have worked as a business development manager in the energy industry, and I have always kept a keen interest in education. With a French-American educational upbringing, my first degree was in philosophy (MA). As a multi-disciplinary subject, it continues to inspire my outlook on education and this is a discipline I taught for a short period before changing to a profession in the energy sector. As a parent, I have kept a close interest in my three children's education. As they attended a range of independent (Durstun House, Harvington Prep) and state-run (Drayton Manor, BRIT) schools, I have gained insight into different approaches to teaching and as Governor in two of the schools they've attended, I've contributed to ongoing school issues. Finally, what brings me to Holland Park School is my youngest child, who has recently joined Year 7 in what is so far proving to be a very good fit for him.

I am currently Vice-Chair of Governors at Drayton Manor High School (since 2018), an Ealing-based comprehensive, and Parent Governor at Harvington Prep School (since 2016), an independent primary school, although I am soon to relinquish this latter role. I am thoroughly enjoying these experiences as I participate in the ongoing challenges these schools face and the educational choices they make. As Vice-Chair, I have been closely involved in the nomination of a new Head, the development of a new strategy, the review of the curriculum, and ongoing engagement in disciplinary issues. My experience in strategy and branding in the energy sector has been very valuable in helping these schools adapt to an ever-changing and competitive environment. What I have come to appreciate above all is the need for each school to articulate

its vision by building and nurturing its identity in the community, an objective which has become ever more critical in an increasingly diverse school environment.

With experience in comprehensive and independent schools, I have come to understand their different sets of challenges. The unapologetic meritocratic approach of Holland Park School in a mixed-ability setting is one I feel personally very close to. The degree to which Holland Park fosters excellence to elevate the school's entire student body, is one I have rarely come across in practice and I am excited to contribute to this model. Yet, I am deeply aware of the fragile nature of such an approach given ongoing competition, whether from selective faith, grammar or independent schools. By being nominated as Parent Governor, I hope to assist Holland Park School in continuing to strive for excellence.

Mr Mark Cooper

My name is Mark Cooper. I'm 49 years old, a lawyer, and wish to become a parent governor of Holland Park School. My eldest son started sixth form at the school in September 2020, and I have two other sons who will be applying to the school next year.

As a parent I have a very keen interest in the sort of learning and growth environment provided to my children. I believe that parents and the school should work in partnership to guide their children through the secondary school stage of their academic careers. It is important for parents to be involved in their children's education and to support the school. Communication is an essential part of achieving shared goals.

As a professional with almost thirty years' experience, I have a range of skills to contribute to the governing body and to support the school in its endeavours. I have been a director of multiple English and overseas companies, many of which were regulated by various financial regulators, and gained extensive experience in law, governance, strategy, financial reporting, audit processes, operations, marketing and other areas. I have direct experience of owning and operating schools — part of my professional responsibilities involves the ownership of a large portfolio of primary, secondary and university institutions primarily in Africa and Central Asia.

Dr Letizia De Mori

I am Dr. Letizia De Mori; I am mother of a Y9 Holland Park School Student, and a Neuropsychologist Researcher in the Neuroscience field. What usually I do is collect and analyse data to understand how the brain works.

I collaborate with hospital department teams to improve the scientific knowledge about a specific genetic syndrome, to design the brain function, and to program the rehabilitation program. Working inside a group of people is remarkably interesting because everyone brings their experiences and knowledge to enrich themselves and the group itself.

During my professional experience, I worked as a Professor in a Secondary School, in this period I learned to learn and to teach, not just a discipline, but how to have an active role "inside" human development and in the meanwhile how to project the inclusion of different culture and people. I would like to be part of the Parent Governor to be also an active part to contribute to the evolution of the new generation's minds, to create continuity between present and future, between today and tomorrow, between us and others. Thank you for your time.

Mrs Donya Rose Diejomaoh

I am applying for the parent governor role at Holland Park School because I am passionate about education and the development of young people; I believe every child deserves an excellent education in order to realise their fullest potential. In addition, as the parent of a year 9 student, I remain an engaged member of the Holland Park School community, and over the last 13 years have seen the immense progress the school has made in improving students' educational outcomes and attainment; I would very much appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this ongoing success story.

I am currently a Managing Director at Deutsche Bank, where I am a member of a senior management team that reports to Deutsche Bank's Chief Operating Officer. I am a seasoned financial services executive with global strategy, general management and leadership experience, and a strong track record of delivering results over a career that has spanned three decades. Prior to relocating to London from New York, I was Chief Market Strategy and Innovation Officer of Carver Federal Savings Bank, a NASDAQ listed New York-based commercial bank. My interest in education was formed early in my career; 20 years ago I was an early senior employee of MaMaMedia, an educational private held company in New York City that focused on creating an online place for both learning and fun for all children. MaMaMedia.com was invented as the definitive destination on the Internet for children. Based on 15 years of innovative research projects at MIT and Harvard, the core idea of MaMaMedia.com was to encourage children to use the Internet, starting at a young age, for playful, expressive, and active learning-not just for searching and finding information. I have Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Georgetown University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School.

I believe that as a parent governor I can leverage my strategic, analytical, governance and oversight skill set to support the school's vision, ethos, and strategy, and thus meaningfully contribute to Holland Park's continuing bright future. I believe a solid educational foundation is an imperative that allows individuals to realise their professional objectives and life aspirations. And as such, I strive to support young people where I can. I am an active alumnus for my undergraduate university and engage in interviewing activities that support the admissions process, including mentoring young people applying to university. These activities have provided me with a unique perspective; I have a deep understanding of the value and importance of a strong educational foundation, which is a requirement for university and life successes. Finally, gender and ethnic diversity in the workplace, and on governing boards, leads to superior performance outcomes. At Deutsche Bank, as a black woman Managing Director, one of only 2 in the UK, I have been active in the firm's UK diversity initiatives, experience which I believe as a governor, would be beneficial to the school community. In summary, as a parent governor I would offer expertise, commitment, an abundance of enthusiasm, and determination to ensure that Holland Park School continues its trajectory of academic excellence.

Ms Tatiana Grineva Romaniv

My name is Tatiana Grineva and I have a daughter in Year 13 and a son in Year 9 and both of my children attended the school since Year 7 with tireless support and collaboration of those within. I would like to stand for the election as a parent governor. I am infused with a passion for outstanding education available to all, commitment to continuous improvement and diversity. I strongly believe that children learn in different ways and at varying speeds, and if they are given the right environment, motivation and support even the most unlikely students can achieve great things and results.

I want to support the school to continue providing the state education at its best, safeguard and extend its commitment to diversity and enrichment of students by encouraging the school to provide targeted

educational extra curriculum activities like health & wellbeing initiatives, money and mental health education, and more sports and music in post-Covid environment. I also believe that the parental viewpoint and feedback is hugely beneficial to the development of school life alongside those who lead, and I am ready to dedicate the necessary time and efforts this role entails, by either gauging parents' views, researching and questioning and the status quo. I will be honored to take on this role and be able to contribute and give back.

I have been working in a multi-national, multicultural, financial services organisation for the past 20 years interacting with senior executives at a Board level and assessing ability of insurance companies in the UK, Central, Eastern, Western Europe and GCC to pay their policyholder claims and outstanding debt. I am comfortable working with huge volumes of financial reports, discussing and challenging management's strategic plans, budgets and forecasts.

Mrs Sunduss Al-Hassani

Being a parent governor would be an opportunity to offer my skills and expertise as a parent, with a background in youth and community work and in management. Currently I have one child at Holland Park School (Year 8) and another child at Bevington Primary School in which I was a previous parent governor. During that time, I acquired relevant experience from numerous governor trainings with the borough and from school governor meetings and follow up work. I also run a social media group for the parents of the school, where issues regarding curriculum, child welfare and community activities are discussed. Children's education and welfare - formal and informal - have always been a major interest. Nowadays, schools are facing a challenging socioeconomic environment on one hand, and meeting government targets on the other. A school governor needs to be aware of these challenges, and sympathise with the school leadership and the teaching staff, whilst at the same time focus on the quality of teaching and learning curriculum.

I have experience in grass root youth organisations on local, national and international levels that helped me to better understand the needs of young people and their families, and how these change in given contexts. When I was Post Graduate representative at university, I coordinated student societies within the union as well as gaining management skills. Furthermore, my work with the Council of Europe, reviewing Youth Policies of Member States in order to encourage youth participation and inclusion, has given me familiarity in working with governing bodies as a team.

Holland Park School has seen incredible positive changes, yet, as always, there is still potential to excel and to face up to current and future challenges. I cherish the opportunity to be a part of the team to face these challenges and to better the future of our children.

Mr Ranbir Hunjan

I believe the role of the parent governors is critically important to properly represent the diverse parent community at Holland Park School. As the son of first-generation immigrants from India who grew up in a working-class environment in London, and with three children of my own, I can relate to the challenges that many parents face in educating their children and the aspirations that they have. Equally, as someone that has been to university, worked in the City for the last 30 years and lived in Chelsea for the last 20 years, I believe that I can add a broad perspective and represent all families.

I am fully committed to the state school education system. I went to a state school, as did my wife, and we have chosen to send all our three children to state schools. I believe every child should have an equal opportunity of realising his or her potential, and that education should not be the domain of the privileged few. Having a strong governing body with the right people on it to support the excellent leadership team at Holland Park School is an important element of ensuring the high standards are maintained.

I can make an important contribution to the governing body. As a senior partner in a global law firm with over 30 years' experience, I am used to working in teams and contributing in a collaborative manner and being persuasive when needed. My particular skills are analysing complex issues, being organised and communicating well. I have previous experience as a governor of Chelsea Open Air Nursery, where I was particularly involved in their fund raising and assisted in applying for local authority grants. I would relish the opportunity to make a contribution to our collective community at Holland Park School.

Mrs Annely Kurg

I have been a secondary school teacher, head teacher and university lecturer; recently dealing more with corporate education/learning and co-operating with universities regarding research and development.

My reason for wanting to become a parent governor is that I am passionate about learning and interested in how neuroscience can help to improve learning experience and results. The other reason is that I am really intrigued by the high quality of teaching in Holland Park School and always wanted to help any way I could! In current circumstances of this pandemic with no clear way out of it, we must learn to live with this pandemic and mental well-being of school is very important in maintaining the quality of teaching now and in the future. I would like to be useful in helping to avoid negative effects of stress and anxiety in school.

Ms Elizabeth McKay

I have two children at Holland Park School and wish to nominate myself as a parent governor. I am an experienced and results-driven creative leader with a track record delivering distinctive experiences, content, and programmes that inspire public engagement and achieve financial sustainability. I'm passionate about the importance of equipping all young people with the education, skills, experiences and confidence to reach their full potential. I have experience in governance in my current roles of Chief Operating Officer at the London Transport Museum and as the Deputy Chair of Kids in Museums, an independent charity dedicated to making museums open and welcoming to families.

I have experience running complex, public-facing organisations in good times as well as during an existential crisis - as we've experienced in 2020. I'm leading the diversity and inclusion strategy at LTM and am active in the UK cultural sector, participating in webinars, conferences and panels. Prior to joining the London Transport Museum, I was the Chief Learning Officer at Historic Royal Palaces for six years where I transformed the scale and impact of learning and public engagement. I developed a new strategy that doubled the reach with new audiences through fresh programming, large-scale events and increased digital content and marketing. During my tenure, HRP made significant strides forward developing high quality content and experiences for children, young people and families of all shapes and sizes.

Prior to HRP, I worked as the Head of BBC Knowledge Campaigns and led a team to develop and deliver cross-platform campaigns, seasons and events as part of the BBC's charter commitment to learning. As an Executive Producer, my projects won a number of awards including a Webby, Peabody, Children's Bafta and a Royal Television Society Education Award for Best Campaign. My early career was in marketing, working on leading global and regional brands at Grey Advertising in New York and in London. I grew up in Colorado where I attended state schools, played in the school orchestra and fell in love with skiing. I hold a BA in English and American Literature and Language from Harvard University and an MBA from Oxford's Graduate School of Business.

Mrs Nasrin Scott

I would like to nominate myself as a parent governor. I have two children, a daughter in Year 8 at HPS and a son in Year 12 at an independent school. I feel this puts me in an ideal position to put suggestions forward from my observations from both sectors. I am also a member of the Parent Leadership Team at HPS. We meet once every term to discuss matters that are of concern to the parent community with a member of the HPS Leadership Team. We have put forward and discussed matters such as school uniform modifications, additions to the sports kit, time available for pupils to collect and eat school lunches, Year 7 walking buddies, lockers and new parents coffee morning.

My professional background is in Fashion Retail Buying and Merchandising, having worked for 20 years in companies such as The Arcadia Group and Net A Porter. I managed and developed teams, and our objective was to grow the business sales and profits while managing budgets and stock. It was a managerial, financial and creative role and I feel I could use this experience in assisting with the schools aims and objectives, managing budgets and advising on recruitment and retention. In the past year I decided to retrain and I am now a Newly Qualified Teacher in Business Studies, teaching Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 in an Outstanding Secondary School in Hounslow. This is also a significant advantage in understanding the workings and challenges of an inner city secondary school with a diverse student population, the responsibilities and workload of teachers, and therefore what is realistically possible.

I have been thoroughly impressed with HPS's thorough academic standards, having seen my daughter thrive at the school. I have also admired other initiatives the school has undertaken, such as a free and healthy breakfast for all students. This is obviously contributing to the well being of the children and success in their academic studies. However, I feel there are opportunities to enhance sports activities and extracurricular / after school activities. The school benefits from an impressive site, building and sports facilities, and I feel we could make more use of these assets (post Covid). I have also observed talented teachers leaving, and it would be good to understand their motivations and how to support them to stay, as there is no doubt that staff turnover is unsettling for the pupils. I would relish the opportunity to become a parent governor and contribute to the continued success of the school.

Mr Sumant Singh Bhatia

My name is Sumant Bhatia. I have a daughter in year 8 and have a deep fascination about how we learn, both as children and adults. I have just spent four years as a consultant in the learning innovation team of one of the leading energy companies in the UK. I am also in the process of getting a podcast off the ground on education with another former BBC colleague.

To keep up with the learning profession, I've also had to keep learning myself, from psychology and neuroscience, to design thinking and agile ways of working. I know the skills now required in the world of work, and what our children are going through, both in the classroom and at home due to COVID-19.

I really want to bridge the gap between work and school, what one can learn from the other and therefore give our children an even better start in life. As a governor I hope I can help achieve this.

Mr Christopher Smith

As a Chartered Architect with my own local practice I have a good understanding of relationships and household dynamics. Communication is a key attribute to my profession in order to inform and explain complex procedures from rules and regulations to spatial awareness.

Although recently married I have previously been a single parent to my daughter and am very aware of the challenges that brings. I am very keen that children get to see beyond what happens in their own environment – that the world outside their own locality has so many opportunities and challenges that can be explored. How we can enthuse children to challenge themselves and encourage them to see that they can do things that they may feel is outside their scope just because it's new and untried.

As head of my daughter's primary school PTA, I was responsible for many tasks from organising extracurricular activities to general administration. I would be privileged to be nominated as a parent governor for Holland Park School and help in any capacity possible.

Mrs Nadia Taylor

I have been a Primary School Governor for eight years with responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection. I have served two terms as an elected Parent Governor Representative and now a co-opted member of the LBH&F Children and Education Policy and Accountability Committee. Both roles have provided extensive training and invaluable experience, which alongside my professional legal background, will be beneficial to Holland Park School. I have knowledge of teaching standards, regulations and targets required to maintain excellence. I offer experience in safer recruitment, formulating policies, strategic direction and objectives, setting budgets and effectively allocating resources.

During 2012-2017 I worked on developing the Tri-borough School Meals Service advising on procurement, contract management and compliance. Serving on the Parent Leadership Team at Holland Park for three years, I understand the different facets of the school's ethos: from parents' expectations to students' learning achievements.

Please vote for me so that I may challenge and hold the school to account, as well as support and assist it in achieving the best for its students. My aim is to represent the parents' views and to uphold their expectations. I am committed to maintaining the wonderful atmosphere at Holland Park School, and building on its many successes.